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A synonym lexicon similar to the *Amarakośa*

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MS 2382/9 of the Schøyen collection contains a fragment of a synonym lexicon (abbr.: LexMS) in the same *genre* as the *Amarakośa*. The writing style of the birch bark MS is Gilgit-Bāmiyān type 1, and as such dateable to the 7th century. It measures $7,3 \times 14$ cm, and on the recto side is a page number 4.

Transliteration

recto (folio no. 4)

- 1 dheyo dāsa eva ca pr[e]ṣyasya || śarīraṃ vighrahaś caivatmā ta .. ///
- 2 ttamāṃgaṃ mūrdhnā ca śiraḥ śīrṣaṃ ca mastakaṃ : śirasaḥ vālāḥ keśād. ///
- 3 mukhasya || locanaṃ nayaṇaṃ netraṃ īkṣaṇaṃ cakṣur eva ca • cakṣuṣāṃ || ///
- 4 ca śirodharā • grīvāyā || karṇaśrotraṃ samākhyātaṃ nāsā śrauṇeti ///
- 5 payodharau stanau vyatti tathaivorasijau kucau || stanānāṃ || jaṭha[ra]ṃ .. ///
- 6 tathā • kaṭya || [mekhalā] raśanā kakṣyakamcī śronīcī ○ ///
- 7 śā kramaḥ pādaś caraṇaḥ saraṇa{•}ś caraḥ pādayo || .e ///
- 8 [ś]yati • mātu || bhrātā sahodaror bandhuḥ sanāthaḥ .. ///
- 9 sūno dāyado vatsa eva ca || śākyaputro yati ///
- 10 brāhmaṇasya || avadātaṃ sitaṃ śuklaṃ dhavalaṃ .e ///

verso

- 1 kapilo vabhras tulyārtho varṇavādina || kapilasya ///
- 2 ṣṭaṃ trīṣṭakaḥ svargasya || vibudhās trīdaśo devāś. ///
- 3 sāta śarmaḥ sukhaṃ kalyaṇaṃ śivaś ca kuṃ tathā || sukh.. ///
- 4 sam eva ca • māṃsasya || tajjaṃ ca lohitaṃ raktaṃ śoṇit. ///
- 5 .. lyāṇa eva ca • + g.o vaśyaṃ ca niyataṃ nissam ○ ///
- 6 stokaṃ eṣaś ca kīrtitaṃ* stoka || duṣṭamārgopa ○ ///
- 7 viśrāmaṃ śayanaṃ śayyān alpāḥ paryamka eva ca • ///
- 8 panthaṃ khaṣṭaṃ danta caiva || yoktrita syanditaḥ sita || ku .. ///
- 9 luḥ sthathā || vṛddhasya || athāṇaṃ bhojanaṃ bhojyajīvitam ///
- 10 dhvajah ketuḥ kṛtataś cihnam eva ca || dhvajasya || rājyaṃ .. ///

Note: The birch bark is folded in a few instances as scanned, but could be unfolded temporarily and read. This concerns line b1: *kapilo*; b3: *sāta*; b10: *dhvajah*.

Reconstruction, translation and Amarakośa comparanda

1a servants (*preṣya*):

1 (vi)dheyo dāsa eva ca || preṣyasya || (3.1.50) vidheyo vinayagrāhī vacanesthita āśravaḥ; (2.8.1429) bhr̥tye dāseradāseyadāsagopyakaceṭakāḥ; (2.5.564) asiknī syād avṛddhā yā preṣyāntaḥpuracārīṇī

2–7a body parts:

body:

śārīraṃ vighrahaś caivātmā (MS: caivatmā) ta .. ::: (2.5.670) gātraṃ vapuḥ saṃhananaṃ śārīraṃ varṣma vighrahaḥ

head:

2 (u)ttamāṅgaṃ mūrdhnā ca śīraḥ śīrṣaṃ ca mastakaṃ || śīrasaḥ || ::: (2.5.719) uttamāṅgaṃ śīraḥ śīrṣaṃ mūrdhā nā mastako 'striyām

hair:

vālāḥ keśāḥ. /// ::: (2.5.720) cikuraḥ kuntalo vālaḥ kacaḥ keśaḥ śīroruhaḥ

mouth:

3 mukhasya || (2.5.707) vaktrāsye vadanam tuṇḍamānanaṃ lapanam mukham

eyes:

locanaṃ nayanam netram īkṣaṇam cakṣur eva ca || cakṣuṣām || ::: (2.5.715) locanaṃ nayanam netram īkṣaṇam cakṣur akṣiṇī

neck:

4 ca śīrodharā || grīvāyāḥ || ::: (2.5.705) kaṇṭho galo 'tha grīvāyām śīrodhiḥ kandharety api

ears:

karṇaśrotraṃ samākhyātaṃ ::: (2.5.718) karṇaśabdagrahau śrotraṃ śrutiḥ strī śravaṇam śravaḥ

nose:

nāsā ghrāṇeti (MS: śraṇeti) ::: (2.5.708) klībe ghrāṇam gandhavahā ghonā nāsā ca nāsikā

nipples:

5 payodharau stanau vṛnte (MS: vṛtti) tathaivorasijau kucāu || stanānām || ::: (2.5.683) picaṇḍakukṣī jaṭharodaram tundaṃ stanau kucāu

stomach:

jaṭha[ra]ṃ .. ::: For Amk see the previous item.

hips:

6 tathā || kaṭyaḥ ||

mekhalā raśanā kakṣyam kaṃcī śroṇīcī... ::: (2.5.746) strīkaṭyām mekhalā kāñcī saptakī raśanā tathā

feet:

7 ... śā kramah pādaś caraṇah saraṇaś carah || pādayoh || .e ::: (2.5.672) pādāgraṃ prapadaṃ pādah
padaṅghriścaraṇo 'striyām

7–9a family members:

8 śyati || mātuh || bhrātā sahodaror bandhuh sanāthaḥ .. ::: (2.5.594) mātur mātā mahādy evaṃ
sapiṇḍās tu sanābhayaḥ, (2.5.595) samānodaryasodaryasagarbhyasahajāḥ samāḥ, (2.5.596)
sagotrabāndhavajñātibandhusvasvajanāḥ samāḥ, (2.5.597) jñāteyaṃ bandhutā teṣāṃ kramād
bhāvasamūhayaḥ

9 sūno dāyado vatsa eva ca || śākyaputro yati ::: (2.5.582) ātmajas tanayaḥ sūnuḥ sutaḥ putrah striyām
tvamī

9–10a classes of society (*varṇa*):

10 brāhmaṇasya || no parallels in the Amk for *brāhmaṇa*

10a–1b colours (*varṇa*):

avadātaṃ sitaṃ śuklaṃ dhavalaṃ .e ::: (1.5.341) śuklaśubhraśuciśvetaviśadaśyetapāṇḍarāḥ, (1.5.342)
avadātaḥ sito gauro 'valakṣo dhavalo 'rjunaḥ;

1 kapilo vabhras tulyārtho varṇavādinah || kapilasya ::: No parallels in the Amk. *vabhra* for
babhru “reddish brown” (MMW)

1–2b heaven (*svarga*) and gods:

2 ṣṭaṃ trīṣṭakaḥ || svargasya || ::: (1.1.12) suraloko dyodivau dve striyām klībe trīṣṭapam
vibudhās trīdaśo devāś. ::: (1.1.13) amarā nirjarā devās trīdaśā vibudhāḥ surāḥ

2–3b happiness (*sukha*):

3 sātāṃ (MS: sāta, n. pleasure, delight) śarmaḥ sukhaṃ kalyaṃ śivaś ca kuṃ tathā ||
sukh(asya ||) ::: (1.4.302) syād ānandathurānandah śarmaśātasukhāni ca

3–4b meat (*māṃsa*) and blood

4 (tara)sam eva ca || māṃsasya || ::: (2.5.654) piṣitaṃ tarasaṃ māṃsaṃ palalaṃ krvyamāmiṣam
tajjaṃ ca lohitaṃ raktaṃ śoṇit(am) ::: (2.5.656) rudhire 'srglohitāsraraktakṣatajaśoṇitam

4–5b goodness:

5 (ka)lyāṇa eva ca •

5b words for certainty

+ g.o 'vaśyaṃ ca niyataṃ niḥsaṃ(śayaṃ, °dehaṃ?) ::: No relevant parallels in the Amk

5–6b words for praise (*stoka*):

6 stokam eṣaś ca kīrtitaṃ || stokaḥ || ::: (1.6.373) yaśaḥ kīrtiḥ samajñā ca stavaḥ stotraṃ stutir nutiḥ
(*stoka* means small, but is evidently understood as belonging to the root *stu-* praise)

6b words for blame:

duṣṭamārgopa ::: No relevant parallels in the Amk

7b words for resting-places:

7 viśrāmaṃ śayanaṃ śayyānalpaḥ paryaṃka eva ca || :: (2.5.802) upadhānaṃ tūpabarhaḥ śayyāyāṃ śayanīyavat; (2.5.803) śayanaṃ mañcaparyaṅkapalyaṅkāḥ khaṭvyā samāḥ

7–8b words for binding and suppressing enemies:

8 (pari)panthaḥ khaṣṭaḥ dantaś caiva yoktritaḥ syanditaḥ sitaḥ || ku .. (MS: panthaṃ khaṣṭaṃ danta caiva || yoktrita syanditaḥ sita || *paripantha* means enemy, and this produces one syllable in excess in the pada, but *panthaḥ* alone gives no meaning.) :: No parallels in the Amk

8–9b words for growing:

9 (phu)llas tathā (MS: (phu)llaḥ sthathā, but cf. 6a: tathā • kaṭya<ḥ> || and 3b) || vṛddhasya || :: (2.4.112) praphulloṭphullasaṃphullavyākośavikacasphuṭāḥ (2.4.113) phullaś caite vikasite syuravandhyādayastriṣu; cf. (3.2.246)

9b words for food

athānnaṃ bhojanaṃ bhojyaṃ jīvitam :: No relevant parallels in the Amk

9–10b names for banners (*dhvaja*):

10 dhvajah ketuḥ kṛtataś cihnam eva ca || dhvajasya || :: *dhvaja* is found many places in the Amk, but not in this context.

10b names for kingdoms:

rājyaṃ .. No relevant parallels in Amk

The metre is ordinary śloka, as borne out by two complete half-śloka with *lemmata* extant in our MS, viz., 3a *locanaṃ nayanam netram īkṣaṇam cakṣur eva ca || cakṣuṣām ||*; and 5a *payodharau stanau vṛnte tathaivorasijau kucau || stanānām ||*. So it seems that the format is one, or a half, śloka for each concept, and a *lemma* at the end of the śloka or half-śloka in genitive. Further, LexMS has *eva ca* where Amk has *iti* after the synonym lists. The *lemma* is in genitive after the synonym list (*preṣyasya*, *śirasaḥ*, *mukhasya*, *cakṣuṣām*, *stanānām*, *kaṭyaḥ*, *pādayoḥ*, *mātuḥ*, *brāhmaṇasya*, *kapilasya*, *svargasya*, *vṛddhasya*, *dhvajasya*), with one exception (*stokaḥ*), which may be an error of the scribe.

It is difficult to understand the order of the *lemmata*. In Amk the sequence is traditional – as going back even to *Nirukta*, starting out with the universe as consisting of earth and heaven, corresponding also to the traditional Chinese lexical ontologies (cf. Braarvig 2018). In LexMS we have also the sequence of servants (*preṣya*), then a set of body parts in good order, and after that family members, classes of society (*varṇa*) continuing with the other meanings of *varṇa*, including *colour*. *svarga* comes between *varṇa* and *sukha* – though of course one may argue that the higher classes (*varṇa*) are closer to *svarga* than the lower, and that *sukha* indeed is a quality of *svarga*. The sequence is not complete irrational, though considering the Indian class society, where servants maybe are seen as having less value than body parts, and that *svarga* is the continuation of the highest social class, and then

the author includes the other meanings of *varṇa* on the way. That flesh and blood follow, is inscrutable, and, in the case of “certainty, praises and blame”, then following, at least the two last members belong together as contrasts. Enemies, growth and food may be connected to the riches of a kingdom, as well as banners, preceding the word *rājya*, being a symbol of the same. But one cannot say that the sequences documented are particularly rational, though to some extent understandable.

The lexicon seems to belong to a Buddhist milieu, similar to the Amk — (see Vogel 1979: 313) — as it mentions the *Śākyaputra* (line 9a). However, if this is a wrong reading it proves only that the scribe is a Buddhist, because *śākyaputra* can be an erroneous reading for *sutah putrah*, as has Amk *in loco*. But if Amk is accepted as a Buddhist work, then there is reason to also accept LexMS as such. The lexicon from which the fragment comes must be characterised as a synonym lexicon. Being written in śloka it belongs to a long Indian lexicographical tradition, but it is most similar to the Amk of the lexica extant, also having many expressions corresponding to those of the Amk. The main difference with the Amk, in principle, is that LexMS gives the *lemma* in genitive for each set of synonyms, which the Amk does not do. The Weber MS is written at same time, but is different in respect of format, as it contains more explanations of each *lemma* – a such it may be characterized as a more sophisticated lexicon than the LexMS as well as Amk. We know more or less the *terminus ad quem* because of the palaeographical dating, and if this is employed as a criterion of dating, it would correspond to the later dating of the Amk as 7th century as based on the “Vikramāditya II” argument (see Vogel 1979: 313)

ABBREVIATIONS

Amk *Amarakośa*

LexMS MS 2382/9 of the Schøyen collection

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PLATE 6

Fig. 1. SC 2382/2 recto.

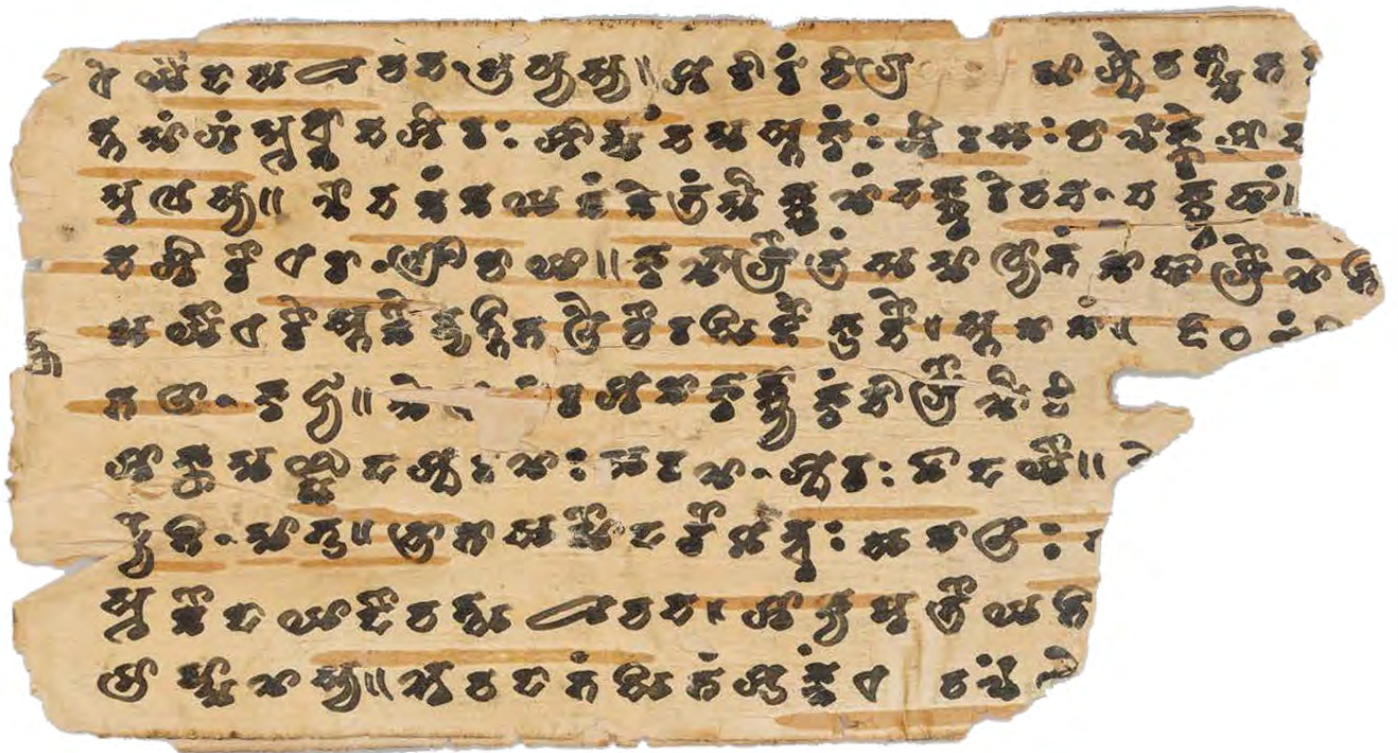


Fig. 2. SC 2382/2 verso.

